## In the Claims:

Please amend the claims by deleting the text shown as strikethrough and adding the text shown in underline.

- 1. (Currently amended) A method of monitoring and modulating a disease-associated activatory process, wherein the activatory process comprises activation of cytokinsecretion, induction of direct cell-bound signals, or transmission of signals regulating proliferation, differentiation, and/or senescence, the method comprising determining and influencing the amount or activity of caspase-10 or caspase-10 isoforms in a cell or an organism, wherein the activatory process is triggered which is affected by non-apoptosis signals emanating from death receptors or non-apoptosis signals emanating from non-death receptor members of the TNF receptor family regardless of the disease being treated.
- (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the activatory process is triggered by receptorcrosslinking.
- (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the activatory process is triggered amount or activity of caspase-10 or caspase-10 isoforms is affected by non-apoptosis signals emanating from death receptors selected from TRAIL-R1, TRAIL-R2, CD95, TNF-K1 (pSS TNF-R), TRAMD, DR6 and combinations thereof.
- 4. (Currently amended) The method of claims 1 or 2, wherein the activatory process is triggered amount or activity of caspase-10 or caspase-10 isoforms is affected by signals emanating from non-death receptor members of the TNF receptor family or members of the TLR receptor family.
- (Previously presented) The method of any one of claims 1 or 2, wherein the disease is selected from hyperproliferative, inflammatory and auto-immune diseases.

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- (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the disease is an inflammatory disease selected from skin inflammatory diseases and septic shock.
- (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the disease is a hyperproliferative disease selected from tumors.
- 8. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the disease is an auto-immune disease.
- (Previously presented) The method of any one of claims 1 or 2 comprising monitoring the presence, amount, localization or activity of caspase-10 or caspase-10 isoforms in a sample.
- 10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein caspase-10 or caspase-10 isoforms are determined on the nucleic acid level.
- 11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein caspase-10 or caspase-10 isoforms are determined on the protein level.
- 12. (Previously presented) The method of any one of claims 1 or 2 comprising modulating the amount or activity of caspase-10 or caspase-10 isoforms in a cell or an organism.
- 13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the amount or activity of caspase-10 or caspase-10 isoforms is modulated on the nucleic acid level.
- 14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the amount or activity of caspase-10 or caspase-10 isoforms is modulated on the protein level.
- 15. (Cancelled) A method of identifying or characterizing compounds for the modulation of a disease-associated activatory processes comprising determining if a test compound is capable of influencing the activity of caspase-10 or caspase-10 isoforms, wherein the activatory processes are triggered by non-apoptosis signals emanating from death receptors or non-apoptosis signals emanating from non-death receptor members of the TNF receptor family.